



Top 10 youngsters to watch in 2011

Published on: 01 January 2011

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GHANAsoccernet's Akyereko Frimpong-Manso picks his top ten youngsters he expects to gain international recognition in 2011.

[caption id="attachment_21104" align="aligncenter" width="300" caption="Daniel Opare of Standard"]



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PLAYER PROFILE



Christopher

Dickson

Liege, Belgium"]



NO.10 Daniel Opare

Age: 20

Club: Standard Liege (Belgium)

Position: Right-back Defender

The right-back endured two years of frustration at Real Madrid's youth team Castilla and trained with senior team under Juande Ramos.

Opare was rated one of the globe's finest football talents after the 2007 Fifa Under-17 Championship in South Korea together with Saddick Addams and Ransford Osei but the period with Los Merengues clouded him in anonymity from the watching pundits who predicted his rise to stardom.

The 20-year-old left the Bernabeu in July, 2010 to join Belgian side Standard Liege. A decision which has turned his whole career round, fulfilling the promise and prospect he gave the bookmakers.

On his first outing, few days after joining the club, he was resolute at the back in a friendly against his former side Real Madrid, led by new man Jose Mourinho.

His pace and power, timely tackles and attacking abilities made him one of the best players in that goalless draw.

Opare is tipped to give Samuel Inkoom a hot challenge for the right-back position in Ghana's Olympic team and in the Black Stars with age catching on first choice John Pantsil.

[caption id="attachment_21105" align="aligncenter" width="300" caption="Salifu Amidu"]

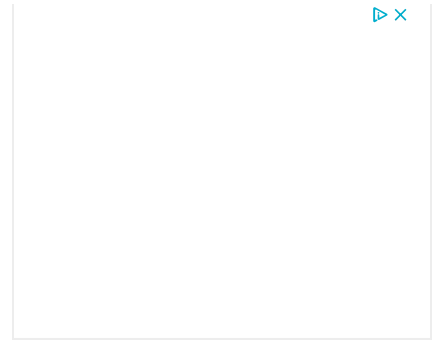



No. 9 Salifu Amidu

Age: 18

Club: Fiorentina

Position: Right-winger Midfielder




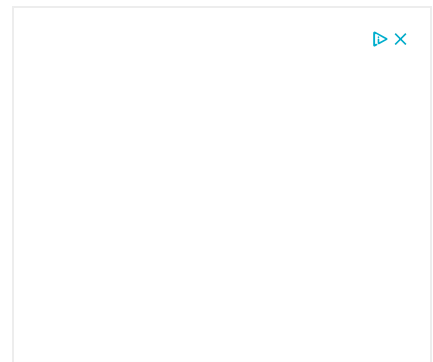


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Nana Kwesi Asare

Country: Belgium

Position: Defender

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Perhaps you did not give him your attention when he made his debut for Ghana's Under-20 team in October last year against Benin at the Ohene Djan Sports Stadium in Accra.

At his age, Sinisa Mihajlovic splashed a whopping ₭2.4 million to secure his signature for Fiorentina from Serie B side Vicenza just 600,000 euros less than what Barcelona paid for Ibrahim Afellay from PSV Eindhoven.

Amidu who operates from the flanks is a clever playmaker with impressive long-range shooting ability which he showcased against Genoa in a Coppa Italia last month.

There are very few names that come to when prospective right-wingers are mentioned.

He is one of the young chaps you can bet your last penny on to hit stardom in the coming year if all things are equal.

[caption id="attachment_21106" align="alignleft" width="200" caption="Daniel Boateng"]



[/caption]

NO. 8 Daniel Boateng

Age: 18

Club: Arsenal

Position: Central defender, defensive midfielder

As I sat on my desk preparing this piece, my colleague, Patrick Akoto came around and cancelled out Daniel Boateng's name.

"Give me his credential, are you sure this is not one of your PR work?" I looked him in the face and asked him a simply question which splashed guilt on his face causing him to withdraw his statement.

After Arsenal trounced Darlington 6-1 at the Underhill, the watching Arsene Wenger said : "This is the next big man to solve my defensive headache."

Boateng owns the back with his absolute control in aerial challenges and sometimes take advantage of his 1.98m height to notch home crucial goals.

He has already snubbed the Three Lions and has committed his international future to Ghana.

Watch out for Daniel Boateng as he grows through the ranks at the Underhill, Westcombe Drive in Barnet.



NO. 7 Samuel Inkoom



Samudeen Ibrahim discloses talks over Hearts of Oak return



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Age: 21

Club: FC Basel

Position: Right-back defender

He fooled Uefa doping officials to suspect him. On that fateful night at the Stadio Olimpico, he was better than Barcelona's Dani Alves, Samuel Inkoom is just 21 but he is the most important player at FC Basel.

Inkoom is the brilliant attacking full back who combines pace and vision for a trademark.

The 2009 Fifa Under-20 gold medalist has silver medals from the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations 2010 and 2009 African Nation Championship.

He rose to become a regular in the Ghana team that reached the last eight at the 2010 Fifa World Cup finals in South Africa.

Why should you cast a doubt over the future of Samuel Inkoom? Anyone who does so may do it for all the wrong reasons.

Inkoom could be the next Douglas Maicon.



No. 6 Jordan Ayew

Age: 19

Club: Olympique Marseille

Position: Winger

Absolute phenomenon! Marseille Boss Didier Deschamps has reposed more than enough confidence in him after he thrilled the ex-France star with his non-stop action of hustle in attack and energy which never seems to finish.

The talent is already capped twice for Ghana but the prospects he showed is yet to come to bare.

Even at 19, Jordan scares defenders with his 1.98m height and burly imposing figure.

He loves to run at defenders and has impressive work rate.

He is instinctive and comfortable with both feet.

Follow him with keen interest, Jordan Ayew could be brighter and more brilliant than the Ayew you know.



No. 5 Jonathan Mensah

Age: 20

Club: Udinese on loan to Granada FC

Position: Central defender

Jonathan Mensah seems to have accomplished the dream of every footballer.

Being at the World Cup and not just being there but playing consistently. He is the most uncompromising defender at his age I have seen since I started following football from age two.

One could liken him to the accomplished Samuel Osei Kuffour at the Fifa Under-17 World Cups in Italy 1991 and Japan 1993.

Yet, Jonathan Mensah solid and firm and understands the modern game at the tender age of 20.

A complete team player who has always got his eyes on the ball.

He is the Ghana dream for the future.

[caption id="attachment_21110" align="center" width="237" caption="Richmon Boakye-Yiadom"]
[[/caption]



No. 4 Richmond Boakye-Yiadom

Age: 17

Club: Genoa

Position: Centre forward

He is the youngest African import to have ever scored in the Italian Serie A.

Richmond Boakye who joined Genoa from local side Bechem United is already attracting interest from AC Milan and other European sides.

Boakye who mentors Asamoah Gyan qualified Ghana for the upcoming 2011 African Youth Championship in Libya.

He is not the physical specimen like Drogba you would prefer upfront but Boakye, popularly called "Kwame Fish" is a notorious goal poacher for Genoa's Primavera side.

Ghanaians can look up to Boakye for all the goals when Gyan is gone.



No.3 Mohammed Abu

Age: 18

Club: Manchester City on loan to Stromsgodset

Position: Holding midfielder

The last time I spoke to Mohammed Abu, he told me he was working hard enough to wrest the holding midfield role from Nigel de Jong at Eastlands and he is well on course.

It did not take him time to break into the Stromsgodset first eleven when he arrived for a loan spell in August, helping them to lift the NM Cup which gave them an automatic qualification for next season's Uefa Europa League.

Abu is superior in midfield, can square up and create decent chances to score and also plays a deep lying role.

He is rated high at the Eastlands and as he returns to train with them before the Norwegian season City reserves coach will be proud of his signing.

[caption id="attachment_21112" align="alignright" width="197" caption="Opoku Agyemang"]



[/caption]

No.2 Opoku Agyemang Prempeh

Age: 21

Club: Al Sadd

Position: Winger

The guy with incredible physique, speed and power.

Opoku Agyemang is Ghana's own Carlos Tevez at 21, an el apache that ex- Black Star's coach Milovan Rajevac could not play without.

His blistering and explosive pace is a nightmare to defenders.

Milo cursed his stars for losing Agyemang to a cruciate ligament tear and said he would have had a better with Opoku around.

Agyemang has come out of the tormenting eight months on the sidelines and has put his scoring boot on.

Notching three goals in a three games to help them lift the Qatari Cup.



No. 1 Andre Ayew

Age: 21

Club: Olympique Marseille

Position: Left winger

When the Confederation of African Football snubbed Andre Ayew for the Most Talent young player of the year award, I sat in front of desk and stared on my laptop's screen in disbelieve.

"They have gone bonkers again" I told myself. My Jamaican-American girlfriend told me her dad loves Andre so much that he refuses to go work whenever the young talisman steps onto the playing pitch.

A chap who at 20 has two Africa Cup of Nations medals to his name, World Youth Championship gold medal and an appearance at the World Cup.

Had he been on the pitch on that fateful night when Ghana played Uruguay, destinies would have changed and the festivals would have continue on the streets of Accra and beyond .

It took Didier Deschamps mountains to convince Ayew to remain at the Stade Velodrome.

He chose to remain at Marseille and doing excellent.

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Dj siroco

says: 8 years ago

Ghana we are bless with these new tools,who is that so call coach to use these tools 4 us? Blackstar all the way

sabacious

says: 8 years ago

nice piece my good friend frimpong but for ur infor,jordan is not 1.98cm as stated but rather 1.82cm.i hope mohammed abu and daniel boateng will be given the chance to justify their inclusion into the current u-20 team.i've been watching mohammed abu couple of times in the norwegian league and there's no doubt about his potential but my main concern is the age of those soo called youngster who are men.ghana has been one of the power house in the fifa youth competition but untill recently we were struggling on the senior level.we can cheat but atleast the said players have to fall within the age bracket.using players who are within 21-24years for the under u-20 make sense to me but rather there's no wisdom in using 26-30yrs for the u-20.at the end of the day ghana as a nation suffer more than it should have benefit,with the exception of inkoom,dede and jonathan mensah,the rest of our victorious u-20 champions are all struggling.ransford osei and adiyiah were very influential in the junior level but keeps on retrogressing instead of progressing.i hope and pray that,more youngsters will emerge in this year.honestly i dont see inkoom,opoku agyemang,amidu ,boakye yiadom and jonathan mensah as youngster cos i doubt their age.

wiseman,sweden

says: 8 years ago

very goood young midfielders but bad we had no strickers to make it dangerous

kwadwo amaning

says: 8 years ago

Mr Writer get your facts right. i agree with Sabacious that Jordan is not 1.98 m but 1.82 m. This piece is equally important since i have not heard from the likes of Abu and Daniel Boateng. Ghana soccer has a future and i hope at the right time these lads will be given the chance to shine and prove their worth for Ghana. God Bless Our Homeland Ghana

Rattus

says: 8 years ago

Well-written piece Mr. Writer (minus one or two inaccuracies)! It's good to know that we have so many potential talents coming up. I think all these guys, plus the ones on our local scene who haven't been mentioned here, can make it big for Ghana. Go Black Stars! Now, who was the one saying that Ghanasoccernet.com couldn't write original articles?

TRUTH POLICE

says: 8 years ago

It's a New Year but this guy Sabacious is still at his old ways. Sabacious, you say you doubt the ages of Inkoom and others. Were you there when they were born? Or you believe you had a hand when their mothers became pregnant so you know when they were conceived. Please give us a break, and for once spare young up-and-coming Ghanaian footballers from your nonsensical attacks. Don't think you know everything.

Abedi Tugah

says: 8 years ago

ghanasoccernet has forget odidjah, the emerging maradona of norway who is a mixture of fabregas, essien and walcott. skill, power and speed

World Spinner

says: 8 years ago

Top 10 Ghanaian youngsters to watch in 2011 | Top 10 Ghanaian Here at World Spinner we are debating the same thing.....

Koby

says: 8 years ago

A HAPPY NEW YR, folks! Wow, with these guys; I guess the sky is the limit 4 our future Black Stars. But please, please GFA, do something about Danny Welbeck, I just get goose pimples anytime I watch that boy play! The sheer power, dexterity, combine with his tremendous workrate, is unbelievable. And just, see how beautiful and effective he combines with Gyan? Every coach's dream duo! I told a Ghanaian friend who was born and raised in Germany that, Danny has Ghanaian origins, and he just couldn't believe why we don't have him in one of our national teams. Please GFA, make Danny one of your New Year resolutions!

stuart

says: 8 years ago

freeyesu ene wu "Jamaican-American girlfriend"!

Abeiku

says: 8 years ago

sabacious, if you have any proof, come out with them and lay them on the table and stop the speculating and suspecting "pull him down" games you are playing. What prevents progress is "they say, they say" and "i suspect and i believe". Be bold to come out with proof, and stop this snake under grass attitude

Kwame Uk

says: 8 years ago

Eii asem oo. Good work my writer. I just read the sun news paper online and they have a similar piece (Players from other countries) on up and coming players who are destined for greatness in 2011. When i saw the caption i said 'hear we go again with copy copy by ghanasoccernet' but you have proved me wrong by doing your own write up (Ghanaian players) Well done (With the exception of Jordan's height) BRAVO. To Sabacious i believe you are trying to make a point on their ages but brother if you don't have proof. It's called allegations and they don't hold 'water' especially in the court of law. Prove it or shut it.

Q

says: 8 years ago

SABACIOUS SHUT THE str_repeat('*',strlen('FUCK')) UP

don1

says: 8 years ago

nice piece mr writer, wish danny welbeck and anthony manison of wa all stars are in that list, hmmmmmm about the age matter i guess sabacious is right, even if they should reduce their age it should not be more than 6 years..... Since all things are not equal we should still give this guys the chance to show their talent no matter their age, big ups to keeper olele for wonderful job done for his team, lol my dad said he was at the accra sports stadium in 1985 when shamo quaye scored him with a back heel in a fa cup match and he still 32 wow ghana !!!!

nana kwasi

says: 8 years ago

Gyan scored his 1st goal of the year & it was classic

JOE ATISO

says: 8 years ago

AKYEREKO, HOW COME YOU MADE NO MENTION OF DANNY WELBECK? IS IT BECAUSE HE IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN PLAYING FOR GHANA OR THE GFA HAS GIVEN UP ON HIM.IF ANYONE HAS CREDIBLE UP TO DATE NEWS ON WELBECK'S INTENTION TO PLAY FOR GHANA, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.GREATLY APPRECIATED AND A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL FORUMERS.

askantwi

says: 8 years ago

What about Jefferey Sarpong of Real Sociedad (Spain) and Emmanuel Frimpong of Arsenal (England)?

kwaku

says: 8 years ago

The wonder kid Odidjah should be included.

k

says: 8 years ago

inkoom is 33 years. I have evidence!! hahahaaaaa

Bemol

says: 8 years ago

Yes frimpong,cofie,odijah welbeck and other that was tag messi.

Bolabola Fifa

says: 8 years ago

Sabacious you are right, they don't tell their true age that's why they were sufering in their clubs, and we all know but who would come out and said the truth like Sabacious did? we are all hypocrites and our leaders too, who doesn't know about all this lies about age, they can lie today but will afect them tomorrow that's what is happening now.

samic

says: 8 years ago

why are you missing david addy,welbeck and frimong , these player have qualities than most of them there

henry fayol

says: 8 years ago

this is great piece of compilation ...good sense of judgment and powerful foresight .keep it up man

alex

says: 8 years ago

Sabacious or whatever you call yourself,you're full of shit and a piece of work..Come again ass..

Delco

says: 8 years ago

Ghanasoccernet writers, does it hurt to do some research before you put whatever comes to mind online ?

alton gordon

says: 8 years ago

Quite frankly all those players featured are boys as far as i am concerned,look at BOATENG,MENSAH,SALIFU,OPARE ,their faces says it all.MEXICO,NIGERIA and a few others,BRAZIL included remember 1997 u.17 S.AMERICAN JUNIOR CHAMPS?They took an overaged player off the steps of the plane the team was boarding on their way to that year's JUNIOR WORLD CUP and nothing came of it,why? Simply because it was BRAZIL!! should have concluded my point that these countries have been caught out by FIFA and banned,NIGERIA and MEXICO,has FIFA ever "caught"GHANA? NO!So please stop this thing about overage and stop tearing down your country unless you have proof to back up such claims rest it as you only do more harm than good to your country.Someone claimed that a certain player from the 2009 u.20 team told him that he was in his late 20s,can you imagine that if i were BRAZILIAN and read that,especially if i played in that tourney,man i would call on the CBF to have FIFA launch an immediate investigation into that claim!Bottomline is-and i do not support any form of cheating in any way shape or form-FIFA HAS NEVER,I REPEAT NEVER CAUGHT GHANA CHEATING SO JUST REST IT....PLEASE!!!!!!OH,AND A VERY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL AS I BID YOU GREAT HEALTH AND LONG LIFE!LOVE AND HONOUR

alton gordon

says: 8 years ago

And do you lot think that FIFA are resting on their laurels when it comes to this matter of cheating?Think again if you do,as i know for a fact the very stringent-yes i am the first to acknowledge that nothing is foolproof under the SUN-measures that they do take into dealing with these matters,no stone is left unturned when they carry out their investigations on player's age claim and i know that the AFRICAN teams are the most thoroughly checked these past few years.Remember last year news came out of NIGERIA that they had was to overhaul their u.17 junior sqaud as the NFA found out that quite a number of players were age cheating.As i have said nothing is foolproof but instead of speculating just go to FIFA and find out how they are dealing with this issue and you will realise just how difficult it has become for players to cheat.

USAchelsea

says: 8 years ago

hey k u idiot! a 33 year old man doesnt run as fast as inkoom does...., u have facts huh? dumbass.

alton gordon

says: 8 years ago

Hail up my BROTHER KOBY,just got up as we are 5hrs.behind,as i totally agree with you that one of these days ,and i await that day,one of these socalled overage players will be suing someone for these baseless and false claims.And a country that we defeat in a major tourney will call on FIFA to investigate solely based on some GHANAIAANS obsession with this "overage"issue and determination to tear down.As a brother asked,how could a 33yrs.old be running the way that INKOOM is running?Someone once,in a most absurd way,said that the reason why certain GHANA players are injured so much is because they are"old".So i guess we can safely say the same thing of most of ITALY"S GOLDEN BOYS BAGGIO,DEL PIERO and TOTTI!AND i suppose also KAKA,ROONEY,FERDINAND and a host of others.Was this the reason why the great RONALDO-oh the RONALDO please-use to suffer so many injuries?Come on folks get real.Same here my BRO KOBY as "freedom of speech",nothing wrong with it but remember that it also comes with great RESPONSIBILITY,something we all seem to be forgetting,as here in JAMAICA we have seen the huge damage it has done thru our "music"especially.After the glorious genres of music that we produced,SKA,MENTO,ROCKSTEADY and then the greatest of them all REGGAE,in came the gutter garbage called dancehall led by YELLOWMAN!The huge damage that this so-called art form have done to our youths and women,their minds and self esteem,is incalculable.25yrs.of madness and seems as if it has no ending,has left this nation so scarred phycologically it is beyond belief,just like the garbage called hip hop,it"s cousin and it is said that it was a JAMAICAN who invented it,they have left our women thinking so very little of themselves and our youths without any form of conciousness and positive outlook on life.FREE SPEECH AGAIN COMES WITH RESPONSIBILITY!love and Honour.

saagbul says

says: 8 years ago

please why did you concentrated much on the our players abroad whilst there are equally promising talents at home. the likes of Karim Alhassan of Accra hearts of oak in a prominent local talent,please check well.

saagbul says

says: 8 years ago

ah! what of Agyeman Badu of Udinese.

Daniel

says: 8 years ago

Edwin Gyasi a player of AZ Holland he is also a good player and good for the Ghana squad

Ehunakoba

says: 8 years ago

Ghana go for Pual Addo...who is playing in Norway to take care of our left back position.....He is a very good player....

Jamerican

says: 8 years ago

Great work.....i enjoyed reading this article. Love the work you did for Ayew, the others were actually good but am o be biased!!!! AYEWE all the way!!!!



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